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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION

November 16, 1956

PROGRAM MEMORANDUM X-9

TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Mobilization Readiness Exercise Program

FEMA Declassification/Release Instructions on File

1. Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to outline to the Executive Departments and agencies the Mobilization Readiness Exercises scheduled before fall of 1957, and the steps to be taken in preparation therefor.

2. Objectives: The objectives are:

a. To integrate mobilization plans and readiness exercises into a phased schedule, in order to (1) advance mobilization planning, and (2) improve the capability of the Federal Government to function effectively under emergency conditions.

b. To disseminate mobilization plans at an early date, in order that the respective agencies can translate such plans into action programs at both national and field levels, prior to scheduled Exercises.

c. To improve the annual national "Operation Alert" Exercise.

3. Responsibility: The Office of Defense Mobilization serves as the mechanism within the Executive Office of the President for promoting and monitoring the planning and execution of integrated national readiness exercises intended to test the capability of the Federal Government to function effectively in an emergency. The Assistant Director for Plans and Readiness, Office of Defense Mobilization, is responsible for the coordination of the mobilization exercise program.

4. Mobilization Readiness Exercise Program: The Mobilization Readiness Exercise Program consists of related exercises as follows:

a. Problem Exercises. These exercises will be conducted quarterly during the year by resource areas and involve the departments and agencies concerned with the problem under consideration. See ODM Program Memorandum X-10, dated November 16, 1956.

b. Command and Staff Briefing Exercises. These exercises will be conducted following the development or major revision of a mobilization plan and wartime organizational plans;

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

- (1) The Director, Office of Defense Mobilization, will brief the heads of departments and agencies and the Regional Mobilization Coordinators.
- (2) The heads of departments and agencies will brief their key departmental and field personnel.
- (3) The Regional Mobilization Coordinators will brief their Regional Mobilization Committees.
- (4) Each agency will evaluate its readiness at both its headquarters and field installations to carry out the plan.

c. Operation Alert. This is the annual integrated national readiness exercise in which related emergency programs for mobilization, and military, civil defense, and government operations are examined under assumed conditions of atomic attack.

5. Schedule: The proposed schedule of Exercises, through Operation Alert 1957, as related to Plans development, is as follows:

- December:
- a. Distribution of Mobilization Plan C, Revised, to all agencies of the Government concerned. The letter of transmittal will include guidance for the Command and Staff Briefing Exercise that will be conducted during the month of January.
 - b. Problem Exercises.
- January:
- a. Mobilization Plan C, Command and Staff Briefing Exercise.
 - b. Distribution of Mobilization Plan D-minus, Revised, to all agencies of Government concerned. The letter of transmittal will include guidance for the Command and Staff Briefing Exercise that will be conducted during the month of February.
 - c. Submission to Cabinet of proposed plan for Operation Alert 1957.
 - d. Publish guidelines for Operation Alert 1957.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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February: a. Mobilization Plan D-Minus, Command and Staff Briefing Exercise.

b. Distribution of wartime organization guidelines to all agencies of Government concerned. The letter of transmittal will include guidance for the Briefing Exercise to be conducted on wartime organization during the month of March.


March: a. Command and Staff Briefing Exercises on Wartime Organization.

b. Problem Exercises.

June: a. Problem Exercises.

FY 1958 Operation Alert 1957
(Date to be announced)

OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION


Arthur S. Flemming
Director

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